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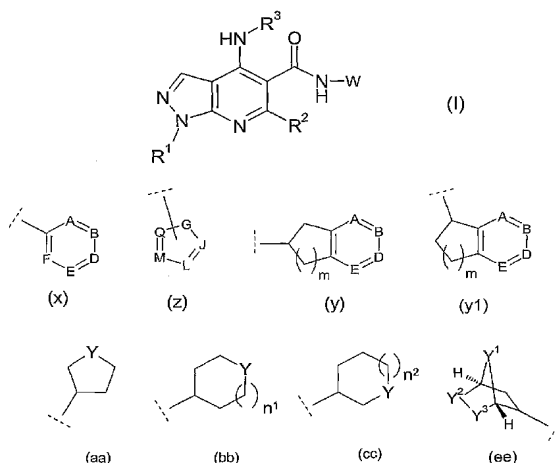
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(54) Title: PYRAZOLO '3,4-B' PYRIDINE COMPOUNDS, AND THEIR USE AS PHOSPHODIESTERASE TYPE 4 (PDE4) INHIBITORS



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof: formula (I) wherein W is Ar, -CR⁴R⁵Ar or a group (y) or (y1), wherein Ar is (x) or (z); formulae (x), (z), (y), (y1) R¹ is C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₃fluoroalkyl or CH₂CH₂OH. R² is C₂₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₆cycloalkyl or -(CH₂)_n-C₃₋₆cycloalkyl; and R³ is optionally substituted C₃₋₈cycloalkyl, optionally substituted mono unsaturated C₅₋₇cycloalkenyl, an optionally substituted heterocyclic group (aa), (bb) or (cc) (in which Y is O, S, SO₂, or NR¹⁰), or a bicyclic group (ee): formulae (aa), (bb), (cc), (ee). The invention also relates to the use of the compounds in therapy as inhibitors of phosphodiesterase type IV (PDE4), and/or for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of inflammatory and/or allergic diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, rheumatoid arthritis or allergic rhinitis.

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